

GLBT Commission Minutes - Oct 23, 2014

Submitted by Bill Barnert, Caitlin Drechsler & Aren Stone.

Commissioners Present: : Aren Stone (chairing), Rachel Oppenheimer, Steven Lee, John Gintell, Paul Miller, Neil Scannell, Mike McKenna, Maggie Giles, Anna Weick, Kara Smith, Bob Parlin, Caitlin Drechsler, Bill Barnert

Commissioners Absent: Gregory Grays-Thomas, Mal Malme, Neil MacInnes-Barker, Kevin Shpritzer, Lesley Phillips, Kristina Mastropasqua

Guests:

- Police Supt. Chris Burke
- Russ Wolff (Police Partnership study at Northeastern)
- Michelle Drolsbaugh, Director, Intensive Foster Care Program of Cambridge Family and Children's Services

Approved Minutes from Sept. meeting

Added to agenda Ellen Brodsky True Colors documentary would we be willing to premier it in late spring

Mayor's Commission Appreciation 6-8:30 on November 5th

Police report

Chris has been in touch with Pam Klein regarding the Transgender Day of Remembrance Program November 23 4-7pm. The program will be in University Lutheran Church on Winthrop Street in Harvard Square and includes an outdoor vigil at Winthrop Park. Chris will be helping out with permitting for the event, etc. Chris will attend to demonstrate that Cambridge Police are Allies.

There will be a GOAL (Gay Officers Action League) training in LGBT cultural competency at the Lowell Police Academy on Nov. 5th. GOAL will be using some new training material and Chris will attend to see if we can use the new material in the city employees training. The Police Academy training is a direct result of the Cambridge Police trainings that Chris has arranged over the past several years.

True Colors film

Ellen Brodsky has made a film about True Colors: Out Youth Theater. She contacted Bob and asked if we might be interested in premiering the film. He will get more details.

Cambridge Family and Children's Services

Michelle Drolsbaugh spoke about how LGBT youth are harder to place in foster homes than non-LGBT youth, and she is hoping we can help her agency best serve the kids. (0-22 years old). Some suggestions included putting a rainbow flag on their outreach table and partnering with groups that work with LGBT adults who are interested in being parents. Suggestions included Liz Coolidge at Fenway Health and attending Family Week in P-Town. Bay Windows, Boston Spirit Magazine & Rainbow Times might feature articles with successful family stories that could spread the word that foster parenting is an option for LGBT people and that LGBT young people in the foster system need our help. It was also noted that DCF does outreach to various communities and could reach out to ours. We wondered if the city might be helpful, including Mayor Maher, who worked at the agency for many years. They also need trainers to train foster parents in the issues that might come up when raising LGBT children.

New members in 2015:

We will have two vacancies. One replaces Danny V. who left a while ago, and Caitlin D. announced that she is expecting a child, and would not be requesting re-appointment.

Past Events:

OctoberFest - Sun, Oct 12

Lots of people came, very successful, Many people came at the beginning, ad few at the end.

The question of the day was 'Why are you "GLBT" and not "LGBTQ"?''

People taking the B-Side postcards count as "Bisexual Visibility" even if they didn't come to the event.

Stories from the B-Side: Bisexual Voices (An Evening of Diverse Bisexual Viewpoints), Thurs, Oct 16

We thanked Bill & Kara & Maggie & Caitlyn & Lesley for helping to organize it.

It was noted how diverse the panel was, how engaged the audience was, and how many questions and comments they had. The conversations continued in the Community Room after the presentation.

An Emerson student videotaped the presentation and will make the video available to us.

True Story Theater has received a grant to do a theater project connecting LGBT seniors & young people. They did a performance last night at Kate's Cafe. Members might want to come to one of our Commission meetings. SpeakOUT is already talking with them. John suggested there might be a role for them at our spring Transgender event.

Protocol for working with youth groups

1. Commissioners will only meet with youth groups when an official youth group advisor or faculty member is present.
2. Commissioners will not ask for or give personal contact information to any youth. They can be given the Commission email address. All contact between Commissioners and youth groups or members of them must be through contact with the adult leaders.
3. Commissioners never contact or connect with these youth on social media, except the Commission's official website and Facebook page.

This was voted & passed.

We will give a copy to new Commissioners, and we can informally find out if any other Commissions already have, or would welcome, a similar policy.

GSA Adult Leaders Meeting proposal

We would like to organize a meeting of the adult GSA leaders, and perhaps help them to organize a meeting of the students. John will start by talking to Ed Byrne, to see if he can get the Mayor's office to take the lead. Kara suggested we re-brand the teacher's event, or combine the two events.

Kara & Paul will contact Ed. John & Aren have to talk to Ed as well.

Intern for the Seniors Project

We received thirty-one resumes for the internship. Six were selected to interview, four were interviewed, and we recommended a first & second place applicant to the City Manager. The City Manager will make an employment offer this week and hopefully the intern will start by the end of the month. There is an office space in the Human Rights Commission. The intern will be supported by Commission members. John, Aren & Kevin have expressed interest.

A suggestion was made to meet in December, on December 11th, if the intern can attend that meeting. Once the intern is hired, we can find out if they are available that night and let the Commissioners know.

Progress Reports:

National Transgender Day of Remembrance event in Cambridge - Nov 23

The TDOR Committee is asking for sponsors to take out ads in their program.

We moved & approved an ad buy of \$250. (Pending approval from the city.) The ad would have our logo, contact and social media information and a tag line of "Welcome to Cambridge. You have allies in the City government, and the Police Dept."

We will also recommend that the mayor speak.

Aren will email Pam Klein about what they expect from us, in terms of speaking, etc.

Public Comment/Announcements/Adjournment

- Kara announced that The Welcoming Committee is organizing an event with Marc Solomon, National Campaign Director of Freedom To Marry and former executive director of MassEquality. The event is at Bo Concept Furniture on Nov. 11. <http://TheWelcomingCommittee.com/boston-takeovers/>
- Bill proposed that at our next meeting we discuss the merits of keeping the meeting start time at 5:30 or moving it to 6:00 or 6:30 so more people can get here on time.

Next meeting is the THIRD Thursday of November, Nov. 20th, as the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving.